

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND DIVISION**

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.,	)	Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)
	)	(Jointly Administered)
Debtor.	)	
	)	Hon. Kevin R. Huennekens

**ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM REQUEST OF MARPLE XYZ ASSOCIATES,  
PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) AND 503(a) AND (b)**

Marple XYZ Associates (“Marple XYZ”), by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby files this request for allowance<sup>1</sup> of administrative expense obligations pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) with respect to claims arising under a nonresidential real property lease between Marple XYZ, as lessor, and the above-captioned debtor (the “Debtor”), as lessee, and respectfully represents in support thereof as follows:

**BACKGROUND**

1. On November 10, 2008 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).
2. Since the Petition Date, the Debtor has continued in the operation of its business of management of its properties as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections §§ 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
3. Pursuant to a Sublease dated as of April 27, 1989 between Marple XYZ, as lessor, and the Debtor, as lessee, as such lease has been amended from time to time (the “Lease”), the

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<sup>1</sup> Marple XYZ seeks only allowance of its administrative expense claim herein, consistent with this Court’s Memorandum Opinion entered on February 12, 2009 at Docket Number 2107.

Debtor leases retail space at that certain shopping center located in the Township of Marple, Pennsylvania, and known as the Marple Springfield Shopping Center (the “Shopping Center”).

4. Debtor has continued to occupy and use the leasehold premises at the Shopping Center since the Petition Date, but has failed to pay the following post-petition rent and other charges due under the terms of the Lease for the period from November 10, 2008 through November 30, 2008 (“Stub Rent Period”):

<u>Expenses Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rent	\$16,436.28
Common Area Maintenance	\$3,348.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$19,785.15</u></b>

5. Pursuant to § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtor became and remains liable for the post-petition rent and related lease obligations arising under the Lease during the Stub Rent Period. Specifically, post-petition rent and common area maintenance obligations reserved under the Lease are required to be satisfied timely and in full pursuant to § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in relevant part as follows:

(3) The trustee shall timely perform all of the obligations of the debtor, except those specified in section 365(b)(2), arising from and after the order for relief under any unexpired lease of nonresidential real property, until such lease is assumed or rejected, notwithstanding section 503(b)(1) of this title...

6. As set forth above, the Debtor’s estate is liable for the specified obligations arising under the Lease for the Stub Rent Period in the amount of \$19,784.85, which is an administrative expense of the Debtor’s estate under § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.

7. In addition to Marple XYZ’s entitlement to the foregoing sum as an administrative expense claim under § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, Marple XYZ is also

entitled to the allowance of such amount under § 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in relevant part as follows:

After a notice and a hearing, there shall be allowed, administrative expenses, ... including –

(1)(A) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate, including-  
(i) wages, salaries and commissions for services rendered after the commencement of the case ...

8. In order to qualify for administrative expense status under § 503(b), the claimant must demonstrate that the claim was incurred post-petition and that the claim is an actual, necessary expense of the estate. In re O'Brien Environmental Energy, Inc., 181 F.3d 527 (3d Cir. 1999). A lessor seeking administrative expense priority for a post-petition rent claim need not demonstrate, however, that the “debtor’s continued possession of its space is a benefit to the estate” in order to prevail on its administrative claim. In re Trak Auto Corp., 277 B.R. 655, 665 (Bankr. E.D.Va. 2002), *rev’d on other grounds*, 367 F.3d 237 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004). Here, Marple XYZ’s post-petition claim for obligations arising during the Stub Rent Period is an appropriate administrative expense claim under § 503(b) since, among other things, the Debtor used and occupied the leasehold premises for that period.

9. It is well established that, absent evidence to the contrary, the “amount fixed by the lease is presumed to represent the reasonable value of the use and occupancy of the premises.” In re Section 20 Land Group, Ltd., 261 B.R. 711, 717 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2000) (citing In re Litho Specialties, Inc., 154 B.R. 733, 740 (D. Minn. 1993)). Accordingly, the rent and related obligations reserved under the Lease are presumptive evidence of the fair and reasonable value of the Debtor’s interest in the leasehold during the Stub Rent Period. See, In re Silicon Valley Telecom Exchange, LLC, 284 B.R. 700 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2002); In re Sanborn,

Inc., 181 B.R. 683 (Bankr. D. Mass. 1995) (the reasonable value for the use of the premises is the lease contract rate absent evidence that the contract rate is unreasonable).

### **CONCLUSION**

10. For the foregoing reasons, Marple XYZ is entitled to the allowance of an administrative expense claim in the amount of \$19,785.15, as reflected in the foregoing calculations, for the Stub Rent Period.

WHEREFORE, Marple XYZ respectfully requests the entry of an order pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) allowing as an administrative expense obligation against the Debtor's estate a claim in the amount of \$19,785.15, together with such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: March 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN BALDINGER & GREENFELD, LLC  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1103  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Telephone: (301) 881-8300

By: /s/ Steven H. Greenfeld  
Steven H. Greenfeld, Esquire, VSB No. 30332

-and-

Jeffrey Kurtzman, Esquire  
KLEHR, HARRISON, HARVEY,  
BRANZBURG & ELLERS, LLP  
260 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Telephone: (215) 569-4493

Co-Counsel to Marple XYZ Associates

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Administrative Claim Request of Marple XYZ Associates Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) was served via first-class mail, postage prepaid, or served electronically via the CM/ECF system, this 9th day of March, 2009 to the following:

Daniel F. Blanks, Esquire  
McGuire Woods LLP  
9000 World Trade Center  
101 W. Main St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Gregg M. Galardi, Esquire  
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher  
& Flom LLP  
One Rodney Square  
PO Box 636  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Robert V. Van Arsdale  
Office of the U.S. Trustee  
701 East Broad Street  
Suite 4303  
Richmond, VA 23219

Alan J. Kornfeld, Esquire  
Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, LLP  
10100 Santa Monica Blvd.  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90067-4100

Lynn L. Tavenner, Esquire  
Tavenner & Beran, PLC  
20 North Eighth Street  
Second Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

/s/ Steven H. Greenfeld  
STEVEN H. GREENFELD